MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 JULY 1982

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation -- Although an Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed Iranian forces continued their advance many kilometers inside Iraq along prescribed axes in the southern sector, an Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio said Iraqi forces had destroyed the major part of the invading force, causing some of the Iranians to flee and inflicting heavy losses.

The Iranian communique and related Tehran radio and IRNA reports said the "forces of Islam" demolished two Iraqi defense lines and penetrated 25 km inside Iraq, capturing 400 Iraqis and destroying 20 T-72 tanks. Providing some of this information, Iran's Victory Headquarters Commander Colonel Niaki said the advancing Iranians had cleared thousands of mines and had almost completely destroyed an Iraqi armored division and two infantry brigades. Meanwhile, four Iraqi aircraft were downed during raids on Iran that inflicted over 100 casualties in Khorramabad and another 80 in Ilam, the Iranian reports said. Another Iranian communique carried by the radio noted that artillery duels continued along the fronts to the north of the main fighting and that Iraqi artillery pounded Abadan and Khorramshahr.

In contrast to the Iranian account, reports by INA said the Iraqis were besieging the remainder of the Iranian invaders in a narrow border strip after luring them into "selected deathtraps in accordance with a premeditated plan." Many Iranians were captured and thousands were killed, including the field commander of the Iranian invasion, according to INA and the Iraqi military communique. A related Baghdad radio report said 36 Iranian tanks were destroyed and another 25 were captured. Noting that Iraqi planes raided Ilam, Kermanshah, Khorramabad and Khark Island, the military communique admitted that two Iraqi planes were hit. In a statement carried by the radio, a military spokesman warned that Khark Island will be a permanent and vital target for Iraqi planes until the Iranians stop their "vicious aggression."

A message from the Iraqi defense minister to President Saddam Husayn, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, acknowledged that Iraqi forces have experienced "difficult and tiring days" but claimed they absorbed the thrust of the Iranian offensive and then vigorously counterattacked the enemy, ridding Iraqi soil of Iranian soldiers. History will record 14 July as a bright spot in the Iraqi military history, the defense minister told the president.

Khomeyni, Velayati Messages -- In a message to the Iraqi nation broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called on Iraqis to overthrow their "oppressive government" and "shake the hands of Islamic brotherhood" with the Iranians, who have been "compelled" to enter Iraq so that "God may save the Iraqis from the evil party illegally dominating it." Khomeyni's message paid special attention to the inhabitants of Basra and Iraq's holy shrines, to soldiers and to prisoners. Addressing Iran's "zealous youths", he said the Iraqi Army's morale is low and stressed that it would be a disaster if the Iranians were defeated and disgraced.

In a message to Islamic and nonaligned foreign ministers, broadcast by Tehran radio, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati protested Iraq's "tragic crime" of bombing Iranian civilians. Responsibility for these attacks must be shouldered by Saddam Husayn and his party, Velayati said.

Hammadi Statement -- No one in the world can occupy an inch of Iraqi territory and Iraq will fight any occupier to the end, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi warned in a Paris statement reported by INA.

Lebanon

Lebanese Position, Meetings -- Beirut radio reported that during a meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan the Cabinet supported the following positions: Secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces and all non-Lebanese armed forces from Lebanon; request the aid of multinational forces to protect the Palestinian withdrawal; and unite the country and deploy the Lebanese Army throughout the country.

Later, Al-Wazzan was reported by Voice of Lebanon radio to have said that he cannot equate the Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon, adding that Israel is an enemy while the Arabs are brothers.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf expressed support for the deployment of an international peacekeeping force but added that the situation is unclear and the PLO is waiting for new proposals, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. Meanwhile, the radio carried a message sent by Lebanese Nationalist Movement leader Walid Junblatt to Sarkis and Al-Wazzan stressing that a clear-cut stand must be taken to prevent the country from being "politically occupied."

Various meetings were held in Beirut on 14 July and reported without details by Beirut radio: Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Wazzan with U.S. envoy Philip Habib, Al-Wazzan with Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan and Sarkis with Phalangist deputy Amin al-Jumayyil.

Israeli Views -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin has given U.S. diplomatic efforts "all the time needed" to reach a settlement in Lebanon, a Jerusalem radio correspondent reported.

Regarding statements on the Palestinian issue by U.S. Secretary of State-Designate George Shultz in the Senate hearings, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in a Jerusalem television interview that such remarks are "nothing new" and should not cause concern. On the other hand, MA'ARIV said Shultz's remarks signal a change in U.S. policy, Jerusalem radio reported.

Military Situation -- Despite several incidents on 14-15 July, the cease-fire held, Beirut radio reported. Israeli planes staged "mock air raids" over Beirut and the IDF brought in reinforcements to east Beirut, the Voice of Palestine radio claimed. Voice of Lebanon reported clashes in the port area, and Beirut radio said sporadic shelling began early 15 July in Al-Laylakhah. The IDF spokesman denied that Israeli planes bombarded west Beirut on 14 July and that Israeli helicopters raided 'Alayh the same day, according to Jerusalem and IDF radios.

Syria -- Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with PDRY and Algerian officials on 14 July in the Foreign Ministry to discuss "current Arab affairs," Damascus radio reported.

Islamic, Arab Summits -- Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, said the planned Islamic foreign ministers conference in Tunis had been postponed in view of a lack of a quorum, SPA reported. Meanwhile, Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, proposed a minisummit of Arab leaders of various states, sources cited by KUNA said.

Libya on Saudi Position -- The Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement attacking Saudi Arabia for plotting to liquidate the Palestinian Resistance and destroy Arab steadfastness, JANA reported. The statement accused the Saudis of collusion with the United States and rejected Saudi reasons for not wanting to attend the proposed Tunis Arab summit.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KHOMEYNI URGES IRAQIS TO FORM ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT

LD141413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, following the victorious operations launched by the army of Islam against the aggressive Iraqi regime, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran and commander in chief, issued a message addressed to the oppressed and imprisoned Iraqi nation and the combatants of Islam. The text of the message of the imam of the nation is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oppressed and imprisoned Iraqi nation, beloved and respectable oppressed and tortured people of Mesopotamia: Now that your crusading [mojahed] brothers, in defense of their homeland in foiling the attacks of the enemy of Islam, have been compelled to come into Iraqi territory so that God, the most exalted, may save the oppressed Iraqi nation from the evil of a party which in the course of its illegitimate domination over this Islamic country has dealt such blows at this noble nation that they cannot be counted; [now that] great ulema such as the great source [of emulation] Ayatollah Hakim, may his grave be sanctified, are forced into isolation at home by the inhumane oppression and pressure of this blasphemous party or with a broken heart have neared God's blessings [have died], or such as the oppressed martyr, the learned scholar Ayatollah as-Sadr and his honorable sister, have sacrificed their lives under the torture of the executioners of the 'Aflaqite Saddam; [now that] many of the beloved brave Iraqi youths have spent their lives in jail under torture and have finally rushed to meet God at the hands of this party; [now that] for about 2 years they [the Saddamists] have been attacking the Islamic Republic on the charge of being Islamic, while they are a credit to the Mongols and have sacrificed thousands of Iraqi and Iranian youths who were the wealth of their nations, for whims and fancies, you are more familiar with the crimes committed by this party and Saddam this supercriminal. Rise up and shake the hands of Islamic brotherhood with your sincere brothers and push this oppressive government out of the arena and you yourselves, through your own decision, from the ideal Islamic government.

Beloved Iraqi nation, now that your brothers have come to you with self-sacrifice and are ready to give their lives in order to guard their homeland and to save their beloved imprisoned brothers, rise up and with inspiration from the great Islam attack the enemies of Islam, because your beloved brothers and the honorable Iranian nation are coming to the fronts, from behind the fronts and with the help of your beloved ones the Iranian brothers will excise these cancerous tumours from the body of this Islamic country and will make the noble Iraqi nation govern their destiny.

O you, the zealous inhabitants of Basra, welcome your faithful brothers and cut short the oppressive hands of the blasphemous 'Aflaqites from your land.

O you, the respectable inhabitants of holy shrines; O you, zealous youths who have attacked these filthy ones at every opportunity, use the opportunity offered to you by God and rise up in a manly way and make your own destiny.

O you, the militarymen who are caught by a blasphemous party which sends your youths to slaughterhouses for its fanciful whims, our brothers have come to save you and with self-sacrifice and reliance on the Almighty they will send this oppressive and blasphemous regime to hell.

You, the imprisoned beloved ones, rise up and with the help of your Iranian brothers save yourselves and your homeland and do not let the destiny of your country be determined in the United States.

You, beloved Iranian youths and brothers, rush to the aid of your combative brothers, as this moment is one of the most delicate destiny-making moments. Either victory for Islam over the 'Aflaqite blasphemy or, Heaven forbid, if there is weakness or negligence, the defeat of Islam and the disgrace of the nation forever. It will be a disaster if you zealous youths are disgraced.

Therefore, your Islamic and national duty demands that you attack the fronts in a manly way and endeavor not to wear the abjection cloths [as heard]. Know that the morale of the Iraqi Army is completely gone and that Islam today needs you brave youths. Rush to fight against blasphemy and save your Iraqi brothers and help the self-sacrificing and combative brothers of the Islamic Republic, as tomorrow will be too late.

I beg the Almighty for the victory of Islam and the Muslims.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, 14 July 1982

VELAYATI MESSAGE TO ISLAMIC, NONALIGNED COUNTRIES

LD141802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a message has been sent by Foreign Minister Velayati to Islamic and nonaligned foreign ministers. Following is the text of the message:

In His exalted name. Despite all its peaceful and humanitarian claims, the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime, having failed to directly confront the Islamic combatants, has once again resorted to a tragic crime and again displayed its filthy and anti-Islamic nature. By bombing Khorramabad and villages in Ilam, this regime has shed the blood of several hundred Muslim and oppressed people of our homeland and has destroyed many homes. Khorramabad's hospitals are now full of people injured as a result of this great tragedy brought about by the Saddamites.

As stated repeatedly, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again points out to the world and to international bodies, which are supporting this regime by issuing their famous, as it were, resolutions, that the warmongering and aggressive Iraqi regime does not want peace. It intends to achieve its filthy intentions by means of war and to continue its aggressions against the territory of the Islamic Republic by presenting itself as peace-loving and the oppressed party. Having been faced with the courageous and resolute defense by the Islamic warriors, it is now issuing memorandums to the effect that Iran has invaded Iraq, and is requesting assistance from other countries for its own regime.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran declares that responsibility for these diabolical and inhuman aggressions must be shouldered by Saddam himself and by his pro-'Aflaq party. It is he who, by resorting to various ploys, is trying to maintain and perpetuate these barbaric acts and operations. These people do not realize that the Muslim Iranian nation, by devoting itself to acquiring its legitimate rights, to totally overcoming aggression, to the crushing of the aggressor and to preventing the continuation of such aggressions and oppressions, will continue the battle with all its might, it will uproot the shaky foundations of the Saddamite oppression and the pro-'Aflaq Ba'th regime.

REPORTAGE ON OPERATION RAMADAN FIGHTING

Commander on Advance

LD141642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Following the start of vast operations by the victorious combatants of Islam, which began last night under the codename of "O lord of the ages, save me", in order to crush the remnants of the Saddamist infidel forces, Colonel Niaki, commander of the Fath [Victory] Headquarters, announced in an interview with an IRNA correspondent around midday today: In their first mission, the joint forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have driven the enemy back several kilometers and have occupied their positions. At the moment, the forces of Islam are consolidating their new positions and occupy a strong strategic position.

He added: 57 minutes after the start of the operations, the forces of Islam smashed the enemy positions protected by vast minefields, barbed wire and instruments enabling them to see in the dark. The forces of Islam completely captured the enemy's first line of defense.

He further added: During these operations, the 9th Armored Division of Iraq, reinforced by two infantry brigades, was almost completely destroyed. It is interesting to note that for the fourth time we were confronted by the 10th Armored Division of Iraq, which is equipped with very modern and advanced T-72 tanks with 125-caliber guns and ammunition.

Right now approximately 20 of the said tanks have been destroyed by the self-sacrificing warriors of Islam, and several tanks were also captured intact following the escape of their servicemen. Several truckloads of ammunition for this type of modern tank were captured as booty.

Colonel Niaki added: For the first time in these operations, the combatants of Islam encountered minefields which were more than 600-700-meters wide. Such wide minefields are above standard and contrary to world military regulations. Nevertheless, the proud warriors of Islam, following the exalted teachings of the noble Koran and with inspiration from the blessings of the holy month of Ramadan and the command of his great eminence the remnant of God -- may God hasten his lofty return -- defused these minefields and cleared the roads for infantry personnel and armored columns. Thousands of mines were defused, blown up or collected.

It is envisaged that by defusing large areas of minefields the combatants of Islam will capture many of the mines of Saddam's defeated army intact.

Forces 25 km Inside Iraq

GF141718 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, July 14 (IRNA) -- The Islamic combatants have positioned themselves strongly 25 km inside Iraqi territory following the beginning last night of the Ramadan Operation against the Iraqi oppressors, said Colonel Niaki, the commander of the Fath Headquarters.

He said that the Islamic forces overpowered the first Iraqi defence lines only 57 minutes after the beginning of the offensive, passing through minefields and barbed wire, achieving all of their intended military aims by this morning.

Colonel Niaki said that the Ninth Iraqi Armoured Division and second reinforced infantry brigade were totally destroyed. He added that ever since the imposed Iraqi war, yesterday's offensive was the fourth time the Islamic forces had fought the Tenth Iraqi Armoured Brigade which had been equipped with sophisticated T-72 tanks. The colonel said further that some 20 of these tanks had been destroyed and a number of them had been seized undamaged since last night, along with their ammunition trucks.

The Islamic forces, he said, had mopped up thousands of mines during the operation which had been planted in areas 700 to 800 meters wide, and which he said was against rules of warfare.

Colonel Niaki also said that the most interesting report reaching his headquarters was that the Iraqi soldiers who had fled their positions to swim across the branches of the Arvand River had left hundreds of boots behind which could be used in the future by the Islamic fighters.

At the end the commander of the Fath Headquarters said that more than one hundred Iraqi POW's had been evacuated from his headquarters alone.

Correspondent's Report

GF140952 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0710 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Correspondent report over telephone line]

[Excerpts] Brave Iranian nation: At 2130 last night, the soldiers of the lord of the ages began the Ramadan Operation with the code name "O lord of the ages, save me" and with a brave attack moved forward to end 22 months of cruelty and aggression by international oppression's agents in the region. They moved forward so that while cleansing our Islamic homeland of the filth of the remainder of the infidel Saddamist forces, they can free our compatriots from the shelling of the cities of blood, sacrifice and martyrdom -- Khorramshahr and Abadan -- by the barbaric and dastardly enemy who continually bloodies our dear compatriots in these two cities.

At the moment we are talking to you from the fronts captured by the fighting forces. We can currently see the tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, ammunition and general enemy equipment -- the things the Iraqis hoped would keep them in the trenches -- who have fallen into the hands of our forces. Our brothers are busy taking them behind the fronts. We should tell you that a number of Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers have been captured intact in their positions because their personnel, in their fear of our infidel-combatting forces, left them behind, preferring a laughable escape to staying and fighting.

In the axis where we were moving forward, there was a large minefield in the way of the fighters of Islam, behind which there was a very deep channel boodytrapped with mines and protected with barbed wire and spikes. Following this channel, which was crossed with difficulty by our fighters, there was another line of barbed wire behind which the Iraqi trenches were located. They had earth walls around them which were difficult to scale. There was another channel behind this line of trenches. Our infidel fighters, whose hope is in God, were able to overcome all these difficulties in their way with the invisible help and leadership of the lord of the ages and were victorious.

We observed the laughable escape of a group of Iraqi tanks in the same area, following the firing of 106-mm guns by our brave brothers. The morale of our fighters is very high and they are all determined to liberate the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr from the shelling of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces. We therefore expect all the dear compatriots who hear our voices to pray, since our frontline fighters' most important weapon is prayer.

[Signed] Correspondent of the Voice of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- Ahvaz center -- from the captured fronts of the south

Communique on Successes

LD141344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1044 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] The second joint communique of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran was released a few moments ago and is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. O combative and Muslim nation of Iran: Now that during the holy month of Ramadan and during the politically important period of the nights of vigil, the doors of divine blessing have opened and many blessings are pouring in, your self-sacrificing and trench-dwelling children have learned on the fronts how to fight oppression, injustice and blasphemy.

In the continuation of their divine and epic fight against the Ba'thist, Zionist aggressors of Saddam your children are about to deal a liberating blow at the feeble edifice of Saddam.

The combatants of Islam were able to advance many kilometers along set axes in the southern sector during the extensive Operation Ramadan, which began in the south with the codename "O Lord of the Ages, save me." The aim of the operation [word indistinct] the defense of the Islamic revolution, repulsing the aggression and imperialist plots on the borders of the Islamic homeland, keeping our cities out of the reach of the enemy fire and reaching the set targets. Last night at 2320 the victorious combatants of the forces of Islam completely demolished first- and second-line enemy earthworks. The deceived enemy lost his ability to withstand the combatants of Islam and feebly fled to save himself.

During the operations -- which were carried out with reliance on divine strength and in the presence of the combative Hezbollahi -- the nation on the fronts, our combatants, dealt heavy blows on the rebuilt and reorganized 2d and 9th Divisions of the Ba'thist, mercenary army of Iraq, and killed or captured many of them. The victorious combatants of Islam completely routed the 26th Armored Brigade of Iraq, which had been rebuilt for the second time. So far during the operations, the combatants of Islam have captured hundreds of deceived Ba'thists and have destroyed or captured dozens of enemy tanks and personnel carriers.

Also, the fast-flying pilots of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the alert air defense unit, this morning shot down four aggressive planes of the Ba'thist, Zionist Army of Iraq. These enemy planes intended to bombard one of the islands in the south and other residential areas of our country.

The Ba'thist, Zionist regime ruling Iraq -- the signs of whose savage aggression and crimes against the Islamic homeland during the past 2 years have been clearly evident -- now that it has lost the strength to withstand the pious and heroic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning, in a savage aerial attack on Ilam, Khorramabad and Bakhtaran -- like the criminal, Zionist regime in Lebanon -- dropped its bombs on the defenseless people of those towns. Such acts will not disrupt the resolute will of the combatants of Islam, but will make our people and the self-sacrificers of Islam more determined and relentless.

In hope of the final victory of Islam over blasphemy and the liberation of the Muslims from the claws of occupying Zionism. With God's help, victory is near.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Iraqi Forces Retreating

LD141746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] After putting up with 22 months of crimes and barbarous deeds by the Saddamists, at 1100 this morning [our forces], continuing Operation Ramadan, menaced [as heard] the positions and installations of the Ba'thist enemy 15 km from the Khormal region and smashed the enemy's first defensive lines in these regions [as heard]. According to a dispatch by IRNA correspondents, the first areas to be conquered in this part of the operations on the Khormal axis were the earthworks contiguous to the first trenches of the Ba'thist aggressors, which were surrounded by vast minefields. The same dispatch says: The long-range artillery of Saddam's defeated army, after suffering heavy blows, was forced to withdraw. As a result, thanks to the destruction of two-thirds of their batteries, the security of the Hoseyniyeh region in Ahvaz and the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway has been reestablished.

A responsible officer in the victorious 77th Khorasan Division, interviewed by an IRNA correspondent, described the first phase of the operations as being quite excellent.

He added: The Iraqi military did not offer much resistance when faced with the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After crossing vast minefields, our forces succeeded in the shortest possible time in destroying great quantities of their armor and installations and in killing or capturing large numbers of the Ba'thists.

The dispatch also says: At 0230 this morning in the Khormal region, with the destruction of eight enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers, after a few hours their resistance crumbled. The forces of the Islamic army, made up of the combatants of Khorasan's 77th Division and the 7th Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, strengthened the positions they had captured and began pursuing the Iraqi mercenaries. The pursuit continues.

400 POW's Moved to Ahvaz

LD141716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] IRNA reports that 400 duped servicemen from Saddam's army, captured by the Islamic army during the first phase of the victorious Operation Ramadan, were moved to the area behind the front by this afternoon. According to the same report, among the horde of demoralized troops of Saddam's army a few high-ranking and junior officers could be seen. These dupes have been moved into a POW camp in Ahvaz.

Iraqis Bomb Ilam Province

GF141639 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Ilam, July 14 (IRNA) -- Two fighters shelled the Sarableh region in Ilam Province, western Iran, at 08:40 am today. One person was martyred and 13 others wounded during the attack while a number of houses were ruined.

Meanwhile a number of other Iraqi fighters violated the airspace of Ilam at 21:15 and 21:35 pm Monday but were forced to flee by the air defence of the Iranian forces. These attacks occurred despite the alleged Iraqi ceasefire.

Elsewhere, several Iraqi aggressor planes violated Iranian airspace in the west flying southward early this morning until 09:30 am. In their last round of two-minute flights over the city of Eslamabad, the Iraqi fighters faced heavy fire from the air defence of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and fled the scene without carrying out any operations.

Casualties From Air Attacks

GF141706 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 14, (IRNA) -- (?Seven more) people were martyred and 44 others were wounded during an Iraqi air attack on the city of Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah), according to latest reports at 13:30 hours this afternoon. The reports also said that five homes were totally destroyed and some 28 others were damaged.

Also today Iraqi aircraft carried out similar savage attacks against civilians in the cities of Ilam and Khorramabad and the small town of Sarableh, also in Ilam Province. Casualty counts on these raids have run into the hundreds, most of them residents of Khorramabad.

Casualties in Ilam

GF141711 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Ilam, July 14, IRNA -- The causalty figures of today's Iraqi air attack on the city of Ilam has reached 10 martyred and some 70 wounded, while the body count is still continuing.

The attack by three Iraqi aircraft, which took place at about 11:45 hours this morning, also led to the destruction of a number of houses and government buildings in the city as well.

Iraqi aircraft also today carried out brutal attacks on civilian areas in Bakhtaran, Khorramabad and the small town of Sarableh in Ilam Province.

The attack on Khorramabad has been the most severe according to reports, with more than one hundred martyred or wounded. An exact casualty figure has not been reported from Khorramabad.

Advance Toward At-Tannumah

LD142138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] IRNA reports on the Ramadan operations: The forces of Islam crossed the border within the first hours of the battle and occupied Iraq's Zayd garrison.

The forces of Islam later continued their advance toward At-Tannumah in Iraq. During these operations our warriors crossed some canals, which the Ba'thist criminals had constructed to prevent the advance of our forces, and besieged two of their tank battalions named Tatayyabah and Al-Hasan. Our forces then chased the rest of the Iraqi Ba'thist Armed Forces' combat units. During these operations our forces continued their advance approximately 20 km along one of the axes.

In this battle, which continued until 0500 with full success for the forces of Islam, several battalions of the Iraqi Ba'thist Armed Forces were destroyed.

According to this report, during the vast operations by the forces of Islam against the enemy, Saddam Husayn announced in a statement, while confessing to the defeat of his forces and in order to provoke the reactionary regimes of the region, that Basra is besieged by Iranian forces and that Iraq requests help from Arab countries.

The latest IRNA report says: Following their successful operations, the forces of Islam continue consolidating their positions in the planned points.

Iranian Casualties Mount

GF141750 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 14, (IRNA) -- The city of Khorramabad saw its bloodiest day ever today. The Iraqi regime carried out a number of air attacks on the city, martyring 25 and wounding some 300 other innocent civilians. Among the martyrs were two infants and 12 children.

Also in Bakhtaran, the residential areas of the city were bombed in severe attack by the Iraqi aircraft this morning, matryring 11 people and wounding 127 others.

Reports on the casualty figures were received at 16:30 hours and may increase probably in the next hours.

Ahvaz Issues Red Alert

GF150621 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0613 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Text] This is Ahvaz, this is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: According to our information a red alert condition is announced for the entire province as of this moment. We request you to comply with all the red alert safety regulations. [sound of siren]

Iraqis Bomb Eslamabad

LD151144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Text] In retaliation for the repeated and ignominious defeats inflicted by the army of Islam, intruding Iraqi aircraft at 1115 today bombed from high altitude the residential areas and defenseless inhabitants of the resisting town of Eslamabad, Bakhtaran Province. Once again a number of our innocent compatriots were covered in blood and dust by the butchers of Baghdad's Ba'thist regime. According to the IRNA correspondent in Bakhtaran, immediately after this cowardly attack, which indiscriminately set ablaze and bathed in blood three sections of the town, the town's Muslim and dedicated inhabitants began relief and firefighting operations under the supervision of Eslamabad's governor.

So far the bodies of 2 martyrs have been recovered from the debris and 30 other people have been hospitalized. The report also indicates that Ladan School on 22 Bahman Street has been completely destroyed and damage has been suffered up to a radius of 500 meters.

In addition, in the wake of the victories of the triumphant armed forces of Islam, the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime's aircraft, in retaliation for their ignominious defeats, violated Ilam's airspace 11 times between 1831 yesterday and 1500 today, intending to bomb the town's residential areas. However, thanks to the alertness of the air defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they were forced to flee without accomplishing anything.

Iranians 7 km From Basra

NC151127 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 15 Jul 82

[By Bernard Estrade]

[Text] Tehran, July 15 (AFP) -- Just over 24 hours after launching their Ramadan offensive against Iraq, Iranian troops were seven kms (4.5 miles) from the Iraqi city of Basra, the local press reported here today.

The Iranian troops -- 80,000-strong on the southern front, according to Western sources -- launched their attack from at least three separate points at 1800 GMT Tuesday, some of them reportedly penetrating as far as 25 kms (16 miles) into Iraqi territory.

One ranking Iranian officer quoted by all newspapers [words indistinct] minefields, barbed wire barricades and trenches -- were overrun in less than an hour. [Words indistinct] "leaving hundreds of pairs of boots behind them."

The officer's reports on the Iraqi [words indistinct] apparent lack of fighting spirit seemed to confirm earlier footage on Iranian television [words indistinct] no visible signs of battle.

The correspondent on the front representing the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC newspaper of Iran's ruling party said Iranian troops were seven kms (4.5 miles) from Basra.

He did not say on what axis the advance was made, adding only that it was on the eastern shore of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, which the Iranians call the Arvand Rud.

[Words indistinct] one group advancing 20 kms (13 miles), another 23 kms (15 miles) and the third eight kms (five miles).

According to these reports, the Iraqi resistence appeared to be strongest on the northernmost of the axes, near the Iraqi city of [word indistinct], facing Iran's Jofeyr region some 60 kms [words indistinct] north of Basra.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC correspondent reported [words indistinct] this region and that "obstacles mainly a flooded canal," slowed the Iranian advance.

According to figures in the press, at least 500 Iraqi troops had been taken prisoner and four Iraqi fighters were shot down in fighting so far.

An Iranian military communique had said yesterday that Iraqi planes attempted to bomb "an island" which, according to foreign observers here, could be the isle of Khark where Iran's main oil terminal is located.

Tehran's English language daily KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL today said that the aim of the Ramadan offensive launched after 22 months of war between Iran and Iraq was "most importantly, the fall of that proven war-monger, (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn."

Tehran Red Alert

LD151212 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1145 GMT on 15 July interrupts its program on attitudes of reactionary regimes in the region toward the Palestinian issue and carries the following statement:

"Attention, attention. The signal you are about to hear is the red alert signal and [word indistinct] condition. It means that an air attack is about to take place. Leave your workplaces and go to the shelters."

The statement is followed by the red alert siren, which lasts for 10 minutes. At 1155 GMT the station announces that the danger is over and people can leave their shelters. This is followed by the all-clear signal.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 976

LD141820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Communique No 976 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: It is appropriate that simultaneously with the news of victories of the warriors of Islam on the southern fronts, you the combatant and revolutionary nation should be informed of activities on other fronts of the imposed war and the self-sacrifices of other warriors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yesterday, on most of the western fronts, from Qasr-e Shirin to the Salehabad and Meymak fronts, sporadic exchanges of artillery and other heavy-weapon fire continued between our forces and the enemy. Exchanges were more intense on the Qasr-e Shirin and Meymak fronts. On these fronts, the warriors of the ground forces continued the task of defusing the enemy mines and boobytraps. During their mopping-up operations, our forces fired on positions, fortifications and units of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces and inflicted considerable losses and damage on them.

Artillery fire exchanges continued on the Marivan-e Kakiha and Paveh fronts, with the full superior firepower of the warriors of Islam.

The combatants of the ground forces, by opening fire on positions of the Saddamist mercenary criminals in the Haftvan and (Shanka) regions, destroyed several of their trenches and foxholes, silenced their fire and either killed or wounded several Iraqi troops.

During the past 24 hours, Saddam's mercenary criminals continued to shell Abadan and Khorramshahr with long-range artillery. Residential houses were set on fire and demolished, 34 of our dear compatriots were wounded and 3 were martyred.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

VELAYATI, CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSS LEBANON

LD150440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, who arrived in Nicosia last night at the head of a political delegation to the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau's special session, conferred with Cuba's minister of foreign affairs at [word indistinct] hours. They reviewed the situation in Lebanon during this meeting. Our country's economic under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Asian-African director attended the meeting, which was held at the request of the Cuban minister of foreign affairs.

While reviewing ways to end the Lebanese crisis, the foreign ministers of Iran and Cuba criticized some countries' silence concerning the Zionists' aggression against Lebanon.

AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON ON KIDNAPPED DIPLOMATS

LD101230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Fakhra' I-Rohani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Lebanon, commented at a press conference in western Beirut on the Phalangists' kidnapping of the Iranian diplomats. He said: They were kidnapped because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive stance against America, Zionism and their puppets. Hojjat ol-Eslam Fakhra' I-Rohani added: This kidnapping exposed to the Lebanese people more clearly than ever the nature of the Phalangists' leader, Bashir al-Jumayyil, who has become a candidate for Lebanon's presidency in order to implement the U.S. conspiracy.

According to an IRNA dispatch from Beirut, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador stated that all the embassy's efforts to find the slightest information on the diplomats' fate have so far remained fruitless. He called upon the world's wakeful conscience to exert pressure on the Phalangists for the release of this group.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Lebanon emphasized: The Islamic Republic feels itself dutybound to defend the rights of the deprived and oppressed, particularly the nations of Lebanon and Palestine.

PETROLEUM MINISTER ON OIL PRODUCTION, PRICE

LD091208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's petroleum minister, Mr Mohammad Gharazi, who has gone to Vienna to take part in the extraordinary meeting of OPEC oil ministers, announced: It is possible for Iran to produce 3 million barrels of oil per day and to export 2.5 million of them. He added that our country's production was fixed at 1.2 million barrels per day last March, and the proposed increase in production should be implemented on the basis of a new quota of production between the Islamic Republic of Iran and several other members of OPEC.

Iran's petroleum minister stressed: Iran does not intend to make the country's economic development dependent on oil income.

He also announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran defends the official OPEC price but some member countries of this organization are responsible for the reduction in oil prices because they produce more oil now compared with their production before the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

The oil minister of our country also added: If the Saudi monarchy is really defending OPEC's official price -- that is, $34 per barrel -- then it should reduce its oil production.

OFFICIAL ON PLANS TO EXPAND RADIO-TV NETWORK

LD122036 Tehran IRNA in English 1946 GMT 12 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran July 12 (IRNA) -- Radio and television programmes will be covered inside the country by artificial ground satellite and due to its cost it is a good investment, said Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran (VVIRI) and the technical deputy of that organisation. His statements followed a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Monday morning. Rafsanjani also added that in that meeting the expansion of the radio-television network was discussed.

Mohammad Rafsanjani, in reference to TV programming, said that after the holy month of Ramadan, there will be positive changes, especially in the area of movie films. He added that in this field some Iranian missions had been dispatched to foreign countries to purchase films consistent with the dignity of Islamic morality and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

FORCES RECAPTURE BUKAN DAM FROM REBELS 14 JULY

LD142146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2032 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] IRNA reports that the reservoir dam on Zarrin Rud in Bukan was liberated today by the mighty Islamic warriors, and that all the counterrevolutionary bases in the vicinity of the dam were recaptured by Islamic defenders. The dam had been under the control of the armed counterrevolutionaries for some time. In these operations the illegal armed elements suffered heavy losses.

KEYHAN REPORTS ON TRIAL OF NIMA MEMBERS

GF141656 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 82 p 4

[Excerpts] During the second session of the trial of the plotting Nima organization members, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, on Wednesday in the Army Revolution Court, Col Darush Dehqani-Azar, one of the accused, began to defend himself. Due to court's closing time, however, his defense was postponed until the next session. The text of the accusations against five others held in court were given to press correspondents by the army revolution prosecutor, Colonel Atabaki.

During the last part of the session, the shar' magistrate invited Colonel Dehqani-Azar to defend himself. He began by introducing himself and said: I was serving as commander of the Tehran unit dispatching police university personnel to the fronts. He stated that he had eight credits left to obtain his doctorate. He was asked about his introduction into the Nima organization. The accused said: I first met Mr Kurosh Sadri 3 months before my arrest. The meeting took place in my father's company headquarters, where I spent most afternoons, and Mr Sadri had come there on business. We were introduced by a common friend and that is how I came to know him and his beliefs. Prior to meeting him, however, I got to know a number of Lorestan feudalists, including Yusef Bayat, Jasan Zandi and Asghar Darvishi through another arrangement.

He then described the ideals which directed him toward joining this organization and said: several simple matters related to my job as well as matters occurring on the Iran-Iraq warfronts prepared me to become active in groups with goals similar to those of the Nima organization. Asked about his introduction to the feudalist leaders, he said: I was introduced to them by Amir Ebrahimi. The judge then asked him to describe his meetings with Sadeq Qotbzadeh. He said: I went to Niavaran to visit Qotbzadeh together with a Lorestan feudalist named Khoda'i and a colonel. Prior to our departure, Amir Ebrahimi, who was present among us, denounced the proposed meeting and said that Qotbzadeh was the director of CIA operations in Iran and announced that he would never meet him. However, since we did not have a car, he agreed to drive us as far as his residence and bade us farewell when we got there. Qotbzadeh's house, a very large building, attracted attention. There were several armed guards in front of the building. He came out to greet us wearing a very expensive cashmere dressing gown. When he noticed our surprise at seeing such a building, he said that it was a present to him from the imam.

Colonel Dehqani-Azar, who was supposed to assume the premiership following the coup by Nima, was asked to describe how he had been chosen as the prime minister. He said: Prior to my selection as prime minister, Fereydun Jam was selected for the post. However, Kurosh Sadri opposed this and said that Jam was a British agent and his selection was thus opposed by other members as well. They all voiced the opinion that they did not accept foreign refuse.

Sadri then proposed me for the post and Dr Darwish agreed to this. All the other members then agreed. The major reason for their acceptance of me was because I was an officer of the armed forces.

They believed that, following implementation of the coup plot, I could maintain the neutrality of the armed forces. My accepting responsibility was a sign of service for the Iranian people. I consider the Nima organization a pure one in every respect.

HORIZONT PUBLISHES OPEN LETTER FROM TUDEH PARTY

AU121711 East Berlin HORIZONT No 28/1982 in German p 19

[Unattributed report on open letter of Tudeh Party]

[Text] In an open letter to all important Iranian Government authorities and revolution organs, the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party has stressed that the campaign being waged against it in Iran is part of a large-scale conspiracy by U.S. imperialism and internal reaction. The counterrevolution has representatives even in the highest bodies and tries to eliminate the party of the Iranian communists and the true followers of the "line of Imam Khomeyni." The aim of this is to finally undermine the anti-imperialist direction of the Iranian revolution and overthrow the Islamic Republic.

The open letter draws the attention of the responsible figures of the Islamic Republic to the fact that the spiteful attacks are taking place because the Tudeh Party has played a great role in unmasking counterrevolutionary people who had infiltrated even the top of the revolutionary organs and also because "it unshakably defended the revolution's high anti-imperialist aims which are closely allied with the people, a revolution which has been triumphant under the leadership of the great religious national and politically prominent figure of our country, Imam Khomeyni."

By using all means the counterrevolutionary forces tried, "on the one hand, to intimidate the members of the Iranian Tudeh Party and thus stop the open activity of our party in society, and on the other, to throw the party activists into prisons under various pretexts and wage a campaign to put the revolutionary organs under such pressure that they will finally officially prevent the activities of the Tudeh Party of Iran."

The open letter shows that despite the clear instructions of the revolution's leader Khomeyni concerning the free activity of the parties and organizations which are not fighting the Islamic Republic and despite the anchoring of these freedoms in the Constitution, the party has been practically deprived of all possibilities for political work. Tudeh members were thrown into prisons only on the charge of being committed to the program and the policy of the party. The letter of the Central Committee calls the measures of the people "who by using their positions within the revolutionary organs officially call on the people to carry out programs against the followers of the Tudeh Party of Iran," the most dangerous ones. The Iranian communists resolutely oppose the extremely provocative falsifications, actions and rumors which fan the campaign against their party.

The open letter here makes the assertion that the Tudeh Party has gone underground and is preparing itself for the armed struggle against the Islamic Republic. It literally says: "This is the most insidious charge against our party -- a party whose entire work and policy has been, is and undoubtedly will remain diametrically opposed to that as long as the line of Imam Khomeyni is the line of the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Finally the party of the Iranian communists speaks out in favor of all forces loyal to the aims of the revolution to use their possibilities to make the revolutionary achievements irreversible and further deepen them. For this, however, it is also necessary to put an end to the campaign directed against the Tudeh Party.

250 'INVADING TROOPS' KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

LD142146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, during an intense battle between the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and the occupying Soviet forces in Farah Province, 250 of the invading troops were killed. Also in the same battle, three enemy armored cars, six personnel carriers and two fighter planes were destroyed. Six of the Muslim revolutionaries were martyred and seven others were wounded.

IRNA REPORTS SOVIET LOSSES IN AFGHANISTAN

LD142148 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Text] London, July 14 (IRNA) -- In a fierce clash between the Soviet occupying forces and the Afghan mujahidin in the Turgan Mountains, ten kms from Ghazni, three helicopter gunships were destroyed and more than one hundred government and Soviet forces were killed. The Afghan mujahidin sustained little damage in the encounter.

CORRECTED TRANSLATION OF OPERATION CODENAME

The codename "O lord of the ages, we are responding to your call," which appeared in the fourth paragraph of the item entitled "Joint Communique" found on page I 2 of the 14 July South Asia DAILY REPORT, should be corrected to read "O lord of the ages, save me."